

## Overview

### Medicaid Expansion in Washington State

May 2013

A primary goal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is to significantly reduce the number of uninsured. In Washington State this will be accomplished through a seamless continuum of coverage options made available by expanding access to Medicaid and the new Health Benefit Exchange.

In January 2014, eligibility for Medicaid will expand to 138 percent of the federal poverty level for all adults. (*In 2013, this is about \$15,900 for an individual and \$27,000 for a family of three.*) Many parents and childless adults aged 19-64, who are not pregnant, aged, blind, or disabled, and not eligible for Medicare will become newly eligible for Medicaid. From 2014-2016 the federal government will pay 100 percent of the financing for this new Medicaid group, ramping down to 90 percent in 2020 and beyond.

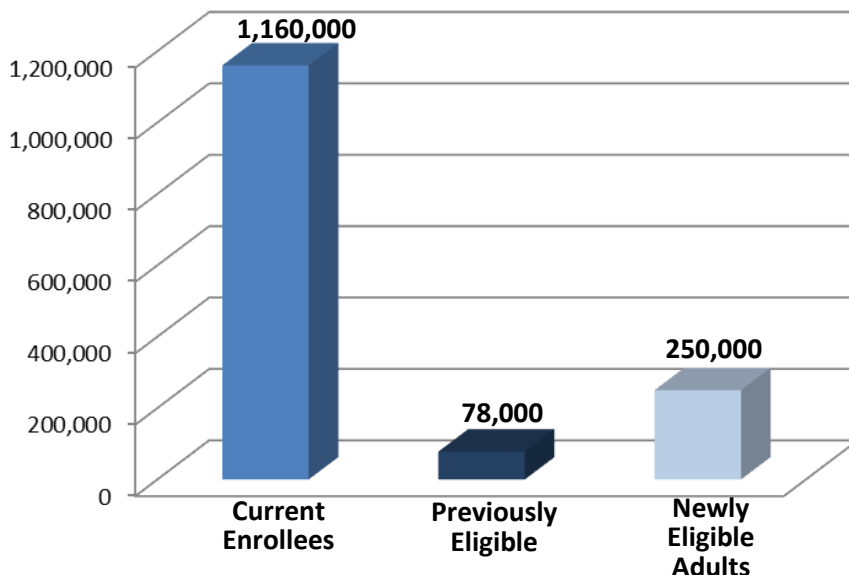
- **Applying for Medicaid will be easier:** The online health insurance marketplace, Washington healthplanfinder, will simplify the process of applying for health insurance. This new portal will enable a swift, real-time eligibility and enrollment process for Medicaid applicants. Help will also be available through a call center, and through in-person assistants, agents, brokers and community-based organizations.
- **Eligibility determinations will be simpler:** Eligibility will be based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), per tax filing rules. Previously complex asset and resource determinations will be replaced by a single 5 percent income disregard.
- **Savings will occur in WA:** 2013-15 budgets assume nearly \$300 million net savings.
- **Primary care rates increase:** Primary care providers will see federally financed rate increases from 2013-2014.



Online enrollment for  
Medicaid starts  
October 1, 2013

Coverage for newly eligible  
Medicaid adults begins  
January 1, 2014

### Estimates of Additional Medicaid Enrollees



**By 2017, an estimated 328,000 more Washingtonians** will be enrolled in the Medicaid program as a result of the Medicaid Expansion. They include:

**Previously Eligible—**  
78,000 individuals, often referred to as the "welcome mat" population, who are currently eligible for Medicaid but have not enrolled.

**Newly Eligible Adults—**  
250,000 individuals ages 19-64 who are not currently eligible for Medicaid or Medicare with income under 138% of the federal poverty level.

## Goals of the Medicaid Expansion

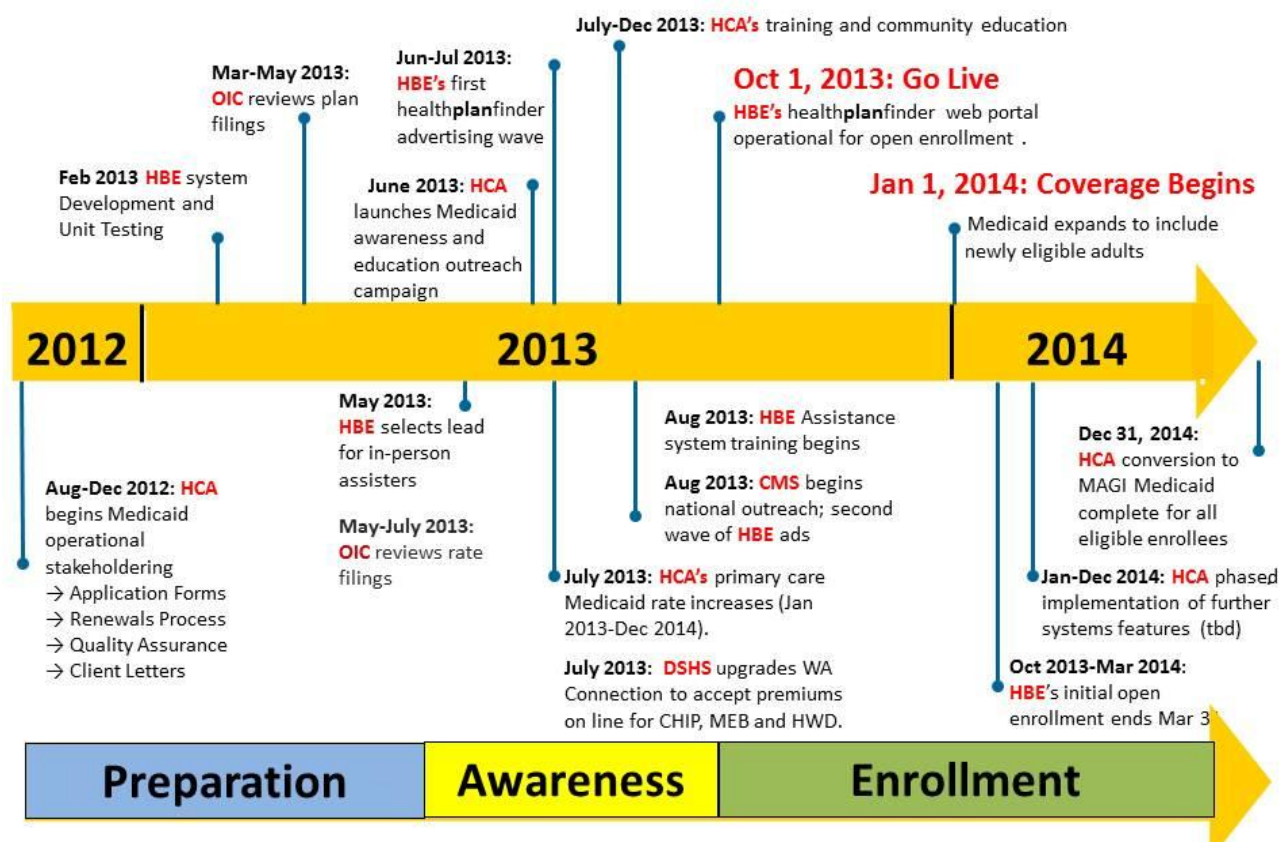
Washington has considered the Medicaid expansion with the following goals in mind:

- Capitalize on opportunities to streamline administrative processes
- Leverage new federal financing opportunities to ensure the Medicaid expansion is sustainable
- Maximize use of technology to create a consumer-friendly application, enrollment and renewal experience
- Maximize continuity of coverage & care as individuals move between subsidized coverage options
- Implement reform the Washington Way, pursuing all necessary flexibility and options to ensure a consumer-centric experience

## Opportunity to Streamline Medicaid Programs

Washington State currently has a fragmented matrix of Medicaid-financed programs that serve different populations with different needs. Medicaid expansion combined with the availability of subsidized coverage in the Health Benefit Exchange makes it possible to streamline the continuum of affordable coverage options available, simplifying access for consumers and reducing the administrative complexity of the Medicaid program.

## Sprinting to the ACA finish line



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Questions and comments may be sent to: [medicaidexpansion2014@hca.wa.gov](mailto:medicaidexpansion2014@hca.wa.gov)